

Point three

October 1993 Price 30p

The magazine of **TOC H**

Lancaster Prison

German Project

Branch News

CAMEOS



Point three



The Magazine of Toc H

Toc H is a movement of people who seek to build friendships, and offer service, across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is a group - at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood - which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it. Toc H was founded in 1915 by the Revd P B 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

All members pledge themselves to try:

1. To welcome all in friendship and lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate people.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others.
4. To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world, as well as a record of Toc H service. Its title derives from the third of these Four Points.

Letters, articles and news items are welcomed and should be addressed to The Editor, *Point three*, at the address below.

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H movement.

Point three is available from Toc H Headquarters. Price: 30p per copy or £3.60 per annum. Any contribution towards the high cost of postage will be gratefully accepted.

Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover,
Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT
Tel: 0296 623911.
Fax: 0296 696137.

Editor: Ruth Boyd
Editorial Assistant: Thomas Hill Long

Cover: Cannock Chase Project Phasell
- Work on the Water Feature

Photo: Ruth Boyd



Point three is printed
on recycled paper

A registered charity No. 211042

Left on the Shelf

It is difficult to know what we can be sure about in this fast changing world. We are told that we are suffering from 'Future Shock' - which means that the future is happening so fast that there isn't even time to come to terms with the present.

One of my own symbols of security are books. They represent permanence in my life. I am very proud of my rows of Penguin Classics. They give me a sense of reassurance. Home is where my books are.

On a recent purge of my book shelves I tried to clear out those that I would never read again. It proved an impossible task. For me each book is a catalogue of memories. Just the smell of "Newnes Everyman's Wireless has me back to the days of short trousers and the first short-wave radio that my father gave me. The radio had one glass valve that glowed in the dark. I can still remember the delight of listening to voices from the other side of the world and these memories make it impossible for me to part with it.

The only book I did manage to discard was an old AA handbook. No easy thing because, rather like the first girl that you go out with, your first car is unforgettable. And this AA book gave me access to nostalgic memories of journeys in the moonlight and hours spent in a red brick garage.

So how does this relate to Toc H? Have these ramblings of 'Future Shock' and books been a preamble to some folksy philosophy, connected loosely with these pointers to one's existence? Well yes, I think so. To me it is a question of differentiating between my love for books and the reason why I love them. Do we similarly love Toc H for a personal association or because of its relevance to today's real world? I would personally find it just as difficult to remove Toc H from my life as my beloved books and cannot distinguish whether this is because of its association with fond memories, or because I still see it as being needed in today's world. In meeting the future, Toc H cannot sit on the shelf in a world full of old memories. It was never intended to. Toc H at its best is about bravery and taking risks.

I'm not suggesting that we discard our history and values, but we do need to establish a sense of realism about where we are going as a Movement and what we are achieving. We need our past to give us the confidence to accept the challenge presented by the modern world. We have a heritage overflowing with people of courage and imagination. This is all the reassurance we need. I want future generations to look back on our achievements with the same sense of pride.

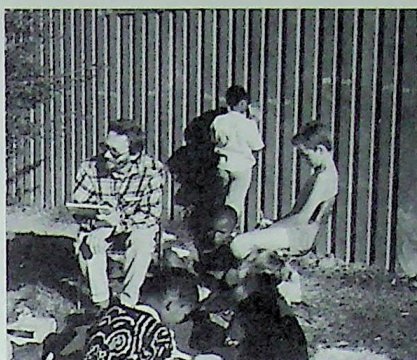
David Harrison

Pretoria Suburbs Branch Project at the Etheredge Centre

by Jean Fenner - Transvaal District Chair

The Etheredge Centre is situated on the property of the Western Deep Levels Shaft No.1 Gold Mine near Carltonville in the Transvaal. Although the various laws that kept the races apart in South Africa have been abolished, most people still live in their own areas and consequently children at Government Schools mix mainly with their own race group. To build a new South Africa it is important for all to mix and learn to understand each other. Toc H (SA) has been doing this among its own members for many years, but we must go beyond that.

In July 1992 two Toc H members from Pretoria, together with three grandchildren (the average age of the Pretoria Suburbs Branch is 65!) spent a day at the Etheredge Centre while a playscheme was being run for orphans from Orlando, a black town in Soweto. Out of this visit grew a plan to run a weekend project for black and white children of the same



The group is trying to remember what was on the tray they had viewed for 10 seconds

Pretoria, a distance of about 130 kilometres. The black children from the Orlando Orphanage and their leaders had to travel about 70 kilometres. With Ambrose the Centre Manager, and Simon who helps him, there were a total of 41 people.

The children were divided into three groups and on each of the days it was the responsibility of a group to help in the kitchen and with the general cleaning. The centre is self-catering and as I had planned the menu and bought the provisions, I became chief cook, with two of the older leaders helping me. As the children were about 10 years old, the Project was a playscheme with organised games and competitions as well as free time for the

children to play on their own. During this time they tended to stay with their own friends, and the most popular activity was jumping on the trampoline. On the Friday morning they walked to the nearby Danie Theron monument, taking about two hours. On the Saturday afternoon Ambrose arranged for them to go

through the small Nature Reserve which is also on the mine property.

At this time of year on the Transvaal, highveld days are warm and the nights cold with little chance of rain. We were fortunate in that the nights were not particularly cold, but since it is dark by 6.30, the evenings were spent indoors. The children had about an hour of organised activity, mainly singing, with a Bible story before going to bed. Being a Toc H project, we aimed for a balanced programme and grace was said or sung at meal times.

The children mixed quite happily and were loyal to their groups. The groups accumulated points over the weekend for both competitions and work and the best group was given a small prize. Most of the children enjoyed the camp and would like to go again. One white group leader said she likes these opportunities to mix and felt she had learnt more about the black culture.

We did not have trained leaders which caused a few problems. However, it has made us determined to have a leadership training project later this year and this will be another opportunity for a multi-racial gathering. This time it will be of people in their late teens and early twenties. This might be expensive since we will have to pay someone to come to give some of the lectures. The project which I am reporting on here was financed by Pretoria Suburbs Toc H Branch and once every two years would be about as much as they could manage from their funds.



Playing a game running on a slippery surface with a cup of water

age, at the Centre. The project (or camp) finally took place from 20/23 May, this long weekend being the schools' winter half-term break. A group of white children from a Children's Home, and coloured children in foster care, travelled with their leaders from

Toc H Gives Lancaster Prison Inmates a New Perspective

Ruth Boyd joined Development Officer Norah Anderson at Lancaster Prison to talk to Prison Officers John Cowell and Linda Jones about their involvement with Toc H in sending inmates on projects. Twenty six prisoners went on projects last year and it is anticipated that there will be 37 this year.

John Cowell: Linda and I coordinate all the activities within the prison - work within the jail and selecting prisoners for community service and Toc H projects. These are doubly vetted because of police checks and the fact that we are sending them out overnight or over a period of time. In normal community service they would come back at night and sleep here. With Toc H projects they are sleeping away from prison and it is our ultimate responsibility if anyone chooses to abscond.

Many of the adults here have spent the whole of their lives taking from society, never giving anything back. Some of them are overwhelmed by these projects. They don't realise what giving something back means until they experience it. But one of the most morale-boosting parts is that they are treated as equals.

When the project booklet arrives, about 60% of the inmates are interested in taking part. Of these, 40% are not eligible because of the nature of their offence or sentence, but certainly there is a high initial interest. Obviously if a prisoner is nearing the end of a sentence and is going on home leave the risk of absconding is unlikely. We can't send lifers or sex offenders out. People with more than 12 months of their sentence left are not usually eligible either but we do have a bit of discretion on this. If you have to cross your fingers, they shouldn't go!



Norah Anderson (centre) with Linda Jones and John Cowell

Linda Jones: It helps prepare them for release as well. Once they have been out and come back they are classed as Category D, which means that they are an open prison category. We look at each individual and their individual merits. We don't work with blinkers on. The projects aren't always what they anticipate. Some say it was hard work - they are tired when they come back. But in a good way really - a satisfying tiredness.

John: Most inmates look on projects as the light at the end of the tunnel. They have been trusted enough to be temporarily released, they go out and do a worthwhile task, and when they come back the majority are over the moon about it and want to go again. They really enjoy it and feel they have got something out of it.

Linda: It gives them the chance to get back to the outside world, where they aren't judged as prisoners. They fill in a form asking to go on a project. When it is all arranged we see the inmate and tell him as much as we know about the project. He is given a sleeping bag, waterproofs, etc., and

£2 subsistence a day. They wear their own clothes. If they have only got one set we give them extra; also if they are doing dirty work overalls or something. They are allowed to take up to £15 of their own money. They are released on licence, so they go out of the gate and that's it. They are given a travel warrant and then have to find their way to the project.

Some of them come back and say they realise how lucky they are, especially if they have been working with disabled or handicapped. It's good for them because they often feel hard done by. Very few people think they deserve to be in prison.

John: Prison is a way of life to many prisoners. It is the only time they have somebody in their lives. These Toc H projects tend to break the mould. They see the other side of the coin. They are looking at somebody who is more disadvantaged than themselves. In their eyes they have grown up being disadvantaged and being hard pressed by society, and they are actually going out into society and seeing someone more hard pressed than they are. Prisoners are people - sometimes you get really shocked by their reaction. You'll see good from the most evil person given the right set of circumstances. I think Toc H projects provide prisoners with an insight of life they would never experience unless they were in jail and someone like us gave them the chance to break the mould.

Ruth then spoke to two of the prisoners about their Toc H experiences:

Ian Scott has been released from Lancaster Prison since this interview. He is back in Scotland and hoping to be involved in branch and project work. At the prison he was a full-time community worker, working daily at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

Ian Scott: I am 44 and come from Lanarkshire in Scotland. I'm just finishing a four-year prison sentence. I was sentenced in Plymouth and was first sent to a local jail, Exeter. I've been here since April '92.

I thought it would be a challenge to go on a project and it was an unbelievable challenge. I really enjoyed myself. I went on the Hengrave Hall project. It was superbly organised and the leaders were very good, very kind people. I was assigned to a man of 43 who had multiple sclerosis. It was the first time he had been on the project and he really enjoyed himself. He wants me to come back next year and I shall.



Ian Scott

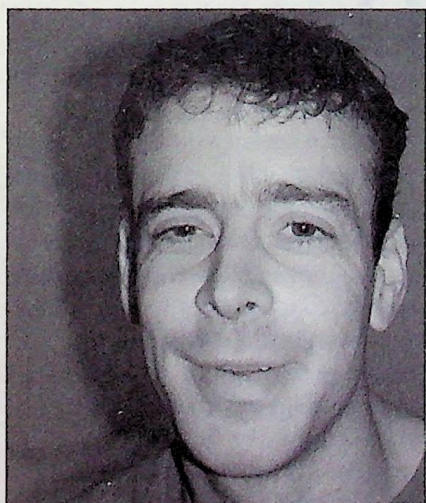
He was in a wheelchair and wanted to put himself to bed and get up in the morning. I just had to help him to get in the bath. There was another man in our room,

paralysed from the neck down. They were unbelievable - never an angry tone in their voice; a great sense of humour.

I was very nervous on the Friday evening, but that was noticed, and by Saturday I was alright. They made you feel so welcome. On the last evening I joined in the entertainment. I made a fool of myself, I couldn't stop laughing but that was alright with them. I really made some proper friendships - Olive Tennant will support me on that. I am left with a lot of feelings. They were very strong people. They were also very brave people. It's not something that is put on for a good show.

Steve Mottram will be released in November. He has been an inmate of Lancaster Prison for 16 months and recently completed a project entitled 'Have a Break - Have a Rest' at Colsterdale.

Steve Mottram: The project was for people suffering from stress, so you had a wide range there - isolation, loneliness, mental health problems and unemployment. All participants were encouraged to take part in all decisions and the emphasis was on you being alongside others as a friend/supporter.



Steve Mottram

There were 18 people on the project, mostly suffering from depression. Most in their 40s. I am 26. There was a lad from Deerbolt Young Offenders Institute, he was the youngest at 19, and then there was me.

It was a bit daunting to begin with, but I was met by Jacqui Barr at Northallerton station and she was very encouraging. After the first day, as soon as I got to know everyone, it was great. We went on days out, Richmond, Ripon, seeing the old castles... we did a lot of walking.... We all joined in together helping each other. I helped with the washing up and cleaning; everyone chipped in. I wish it could have gone on longer. I enjoyed it all the way through, but towards the end I was enjoying it more. It finished too soon. I'd have liked another week.



Ian, Linda, Steve and Nora

The one I miss most is the fellow who had something wrong with his bones, Malcolm. I don't know, I felt sorry leaving him; I had a lot of pity for him. I had a soft spot for him. He was alright. I had a lump in my throat saying goodbye.

Do You Take Tea or Coffee - Or perhaps a little alcohol or marijuana?

David Harrison reports on a recent Cameo.



We all take some kind of drug. Perhaps it is the caffeine in a cup of tea or the nicotine in a cigarette. As for me, I really enjoy the lift that only coffee seems to provide. Nobody likes to think of himself as addicted, it implies a weakness. Cigarette smokers are often defensive about their habit, and for good reason. Who but a smoker could justify smoking? Few of us would own up to being an alcoholic and yet an estimated one million drinkers in Britain are dependent. We ignore health signs and carry on. There are probably in excess of 60,000 alcohol-related road accidents each year. So why do we do what we know to be wrong?

The Government and Church have laid down what is legally and spiritually correct. Yet some prohibited drugs are physically less harmful and socially less damaging. These contradictory messages have created a moral maze. No wonder so many people feel confused about drugs - even before taking any.

Feelings about drugs run deep. Ask the mother whose son has

died from sniffing glue. Ask the child whose deformed limbs resulted from his mother's addiction.

In July Toc H ran a three-day Cameo for a mixed group of volunteers. Some Toc H members, some drug users and some who would not even agree to experiment with drugs. We had all taken the risk to meet up with people with different attitudes about drug use and I know we all felt very nervous about it. It would have been easy to get together with a like-minded volunteer group, but Toc H, at its best, is not easy.

We met in isolation, in a small converted power station in a cleft of a valley in far North Wales. We arrived there late, it was cold and dark thunder clouds rolled over the mountain tops. During the night the rain started and it never really let up. Inside, we sat round on harlequin chairs and started talking.

Inevitably, there was an opinion that one should take a controlled risk with drugs. And there was

also an opinion that any illegal drug use could only be a negative experience. As we spoke it became clear that a simplistic dogma of Rights and Wrongs was not very helpful, nor useful. We began to cut away at the street myth and medical misinformation of drug taking. We pooled our knowledge, our thoughts and also our feelings. We talked about our own experience. This was no academic exercise amongst intellectuals but a willingness to share and be open at a deep and intimate level.

Over the three days we reshaped what we had thought to be true and we challenged our own personal values and lifestyles.

Towards the end of the Cameo we each spoke about the things we had learned. One 16-year-old spoke about a new confidence she now had not to take illegal drugs, even though her friends did. Another participant spoke about seeing a bigger picture and how she could now see a way to involve her spiritual life in her professional work with young people. It became clear that each

member of the group had in some way been moved by their experience

Although the success of this event could be quantified, it is the unquantifiable aspects which convince me that Toc H can have a significant and positive effect on the lives of participants. It would

be impossible for any member of that Cameo group to have remained unchanged. Toc H should feel proud of its ability to touch lives at a most profound level and to change lives - for good. ■

An enthusiastic participant wrote to the editor to share her experience of this CAMEO with our readers:

"I feel that if Toc H can influence people to the extent that our lives were touched on that Cameo on a National level then I for one would hope for greater understanding for everyone. I feel that the Drugs Cameo and all the events that took place during its time had a marked and lasting effect on my life."

Poverty and Mental Health

Marilyn Surtees reports on a Cameo held at Colsterdale, North Yorkshire.

The original intention was that the mix would involve mental health professionals, mental health resource users with experience of poverty and mental health problems, and volunteers. However the mental health professionals were unable to attend. We still managed to achieve a good mix of people. We had a nurse who was a single parent, a student psychiatric nurse, two residential social workers, two voluntary workers, a student waiting to go to university and several mental health service users - 14 participants in all.

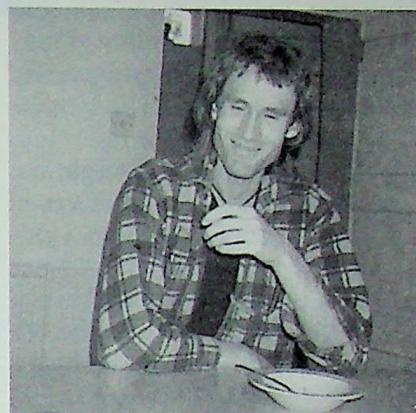
We looked at how long-term poverty affects peoples' mental health and how poverty exacerbates the problems mental health sufferers already experience. We also looked at Care in the Community to see if the British have learned anything from the experiences of other countries, such as America, Italy and India.

Some participants talked about the difficulties of being discharged from hospital to care homes where they receive only £12 per week. (This has to cover clothing, toiletries, transport and leisure.) Or into bed and breakfast accommodation and living on benefits. Even when people moved into their own flat or house, they were faced with a myriad of problems, such as acquiring basic necessities like a



cooker, bed or fridge. In most cases loans are offered, which in the end lead to poverty as people struggle to repay them on an impossibly low income.

The weekend did not just consist of serious work. There was also a great deal of fun. On Saturday afternoon we visited How Stean Gorge where we all ventured through a long, dark cave. This was an excellent team-building exercise as we had to trust each other. It was a particularly beneficial experience for one participant, who suffers from



agoraphobia. This had been her longest period away from home in 25 years and she said that getting through the cave had been the greatest achievement of her life.

Several of the participants have remained in touch with each other and all have expressed a wish to be involved in further Toc H activities.

Both Ray Kirk and I felt that the Cameo was valuable and worthwhile for everyone involved and we, as leaders, gained a great deal. ■

German Project - Muenster

Terry Brown, Development Officer in Muenster, tells *Point three* readers about a Toc H outing in May for refugee children from Macedonia and the southern area of the former Yugoslavia:

This was a highly successful visit to the Kettlerhof Freizeit (free time) Park, which is like a mini Alton Towers, outside Muenster. It involved young people from different nationalities, ages and backgrounds. There were British children from the Forces senior school in Muenster, local German boys who help with the children at the refugee camp and the refugee children themselves.



of German, English and Serbo-Croat.

The students at Edinburgh school had met most of the young refugee children previously, either at the Christmas party (as reported in an earlier edition of *Point three*), or at the sports afternoon held for them at the school in March. Over 100 pupils wanted to be actively involved in work with the refugees and others supported by raising funds to pay for the outing.

They had heard about the conditions the refugees were living in and had seen a video. The refugee community in Muenster alone is over 2,500. It was an emotional occasion when the bus with 20 students arrived to pick up the refugees whose excited faces could be seen through the wire fence surrounding the compound.

The 20 refugees and six German helpers boarded the bus and were paired up with the students. The plan was for each British student to pay the entry to the fun park and provide a packed lunch for himself and his or her partner. They were also given the task of finding out as much about each of the youngsters as possible, not easy with no real common language.

The 45-minute journey passed very quickly, with excited laughter, singing and shouting in a mixture

The park is a huge place, packed with rides, swings, slides, bouncy castles.... For children who had been shunted around Europe with no real base, it must have seemed like paradise. Grass, activities and open space had replaced, at least for a short while, the wire compound, tarmac and containers of their makeshift home.

Pushing impatiently through the gate the refugees all piled onto the first ride they came across. It took some time for them to take in their surroundings. Then there was no stopping them, they tore around from one delight to another.

Then it was lunch time. The youngsters went round all the lunch boxes sampling everything and enjoying the most attractive and tasty items with great relish.

Sadly, as with all good things, the end of the trip seemed to arrive all too quickly and it was time to board the bus for the return journey. Our thoughts were focussed on likely future projects. The links had been made, friendships formed and, most importantly, trust established, making new ventures an exciting and challenging prospect.

Dave Wilson, head of Edinburgh school, reported enthusiastically:

'The refugees thoroughly enjoy their association with the school but they are by no means the only ones to benefit. Our students learn a great deal about what it means to have to live without the benefits of our consumer society and find it very moving to come face to face with people who have so little'.

Our thanks go to Mr Wilson and all his staff at Edinburgh school, in particular to youth tutor, Howard Jones, for the amount of work he put into the event and into the follow-up work with the students. The school is due to close in two years' time, but they have pledged to continue their support, possibly extended to other camps and nationalities, as well as helping Toc H members in Albania with a schools project. Students at the school have taken part in an Anglo/German student trip to Talbot House and more such trips are planned.

The students at Edinburgh, the refugees, the German nationals and Toc H are all working very hard to bond the different people together. Many of those at the school are also involved in a link-up with a German school from a small town called Rheine, about 40km from Muenster, where two of the teachers are enquiring about membership of 'this wonderful organisation of Toc H'.

There is huge potential for Toc H here and much has been achieved, especially among the young. Most of the members of our Toc H (J) Group here are young Germans from the university. With the local schools, refugee camps and 50,000 students it is a great place for youth work. A great place for Toc H.

Terry Brown

Toc H is Taking Root in Albania

by Terry Brown

Albania is a small beautiful country, bordered on the west by the Mediterranean sea, to the south by Greece and to the north and east by states of the former Yugoslavia. For the vast majority of the three and half million population, their lives have been spent living in enforced isolation under what was probably the cruellest regime ever seen in Europe. The country's dictator, Enver Hoxha, ruled by terror. Thousands of people, considered to be the enemies of the state, were eliminated or sent to labour camps. All forms of religion were banned, and the simple act of tuning in to a foreign radio or TV station was punishable with a prison sentence. Thousands are on the brink of starvation, homeless and penniless. Many hospitals don't even have aspirins.

It was into this background that Salem and Nevi Meco (pronounced Medchow) were raised, married and in turn raised their own two daughters. Salem is now the vice principle of Tirana University and recently spent a year as a guest professor at Muenster university in Germany. His wife Nevi, and their youngest daughter, Irene, joined him for the last eight months. They were unable to obtain permission for their oldest daughter, Elona, and she had to remain in Tirana.

During their time in Germany, both Salem and Nevi joined the Muenster Toc H group and are now actively promoting Toc H in Tirana. During the time I knew Nevi, I was able to find out a great deal about a people and a country cut off from the rest of Europe. I want to share with you Nevi's story:

'I was born in Tirana, the capital of Albania. My father was a



translator and my mother a housewife. I have a brother and a sister. It was very difficult for our father to support the family. In spite of this, he wanted us to go on with our education. It was a very hard period of time. I remember above all, when we were young, we were always hungry. Sometimes we almost starved. One who has never been really hungry can never fully understand how terrible that feeling is, especially when it is long lasting.

My sister graduated as a teacher in chemistry, my brother as an architect and I as a teacher of Albanian literature and English. There were about 26 of us at the university in the English group. Only one of us had an English dictionary so we each had use of it about one night a month. It was a great dream of mine at that time to have an English dictionary of my own.

After I graduated I started to work at an elementary school teaching English, but I had to improve my own English so I started to listen to the BBC world service every night. I did this in secrecy, being very careful, as it was forbidden to listen to foreign stations. While I was teaching my pupils I was also teaching myself.

Teaching in those days was not easy for myself or my colleagues. Children and pupils always need the truth and it is essential in education, but what do you do if it is not allowed to be told? Thank God, children are usually clever enough to understand much by themselves. But not everything can be understood without an explanation. There are lots of delicate things which need careful explanation.

I remember a young boy who asked me, 'Teacher, is it true that capitalism is as bad as it says in our book? I have an uncle who lives in America and he used to be able to visit Albania. He would bring us nice things and has lots of money, a big house and a car'. That was his question and it was difficult to answer in front of the class. It could have cost me my job. I preferred a private chat with him. I was sure that he knew the answer but he just wanted it answered openly in front of all his friends.

I met my husband at university. He had just returned from the USSR where he had been studying for five years and he was given a job as a professor at the university where he still works. This position, even with my own wages, was not always enough to support our own family. Our daughters could never get used to the rations. But the most important thing in our family was their education. Today, my eldest daughter has graduated as an English teacher and teaches in Tirana and our youngest daughter has just finished school and wants to go on to university.

After the democratic movement succeeded in Albania, Salem was able to come to Germany as a guest professor, for which he was given a scholarship.

It was here in Muenster that I met Sue, Terry and Nathan Brown. They gave my daughter and myself a great surprise when they invited us to travel to England for a holiday. It was a dream come true. I never thought it could possibly happen. I still can't believe it and it will always remain unforgettable.

I met many of the Toc H group in Muenster, and Malcolm Lowe. I have spent much time talking to them about Albania. It was so nice to meet all these people and to be treated as an equal. I have found such warmth, love and friendship and I want to take Toc H back to share the experience with the people of Tirana. My husband and I have both joined Toc H and we are so happy to be involved.

You can't imagine the feeling of being free and able to travel. It is a new experience for Albanians. I think we have a great deal to share with our friends and colleagues in Albania. They are eager to learn. A great change has started in Albania and I believe it is a change for the better.'

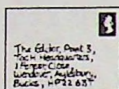
I have phoned Salem and Nevi since their return to Albania. During her absence, Nevi's friend had filled her job on a temporary basis until Nevi returned. However her friend's husband lost his job, leaving her as the bread winner. Nevi nobly resigned from her job allowing her friend to remain in work and their family to survive. Naturally

this has caused financial hardship for Salem and Nevi, but they are exceptional people.

With some support from Toc H, Nevi is now planning to teach English. She already has six students and is looking to rent a room to work on a permanent basis. Her brother Illya, has joined the Toc H group in Albania and is also supporting her work.

The future is going to be very difficult and the country faces great problems. Inflation, black markets and organised crime are just a few, to go with the poverty and starvation, but with people like Salem and Nevi who would bet against them? ■

Your Letters



Toc H as a Catalyst

By acting as a catalyst, spreading knowledge of LEPR (and Toc H), one can be justly proud of being one of a team that in one day, by shaking a tin, has cured an average of two lepers apiece. Put that way more people (Toc H and non-Toc H volunteers) would value one day or one afternoon per year as time well spent in the Toc H tradition.

In 1992-93 the fall in the value of the pound made LEPR's overseas costs rise by more than 10% (a cure previously costing £19 rose to more than £21).

We in Richmond Branch are all older now and there are only seven active collecting members plus 24 non-Toc H volunteers making a total of 31 people who collected £1121.07 (at £21 each, enough for a cure treatment for 53 lepers). In 1992, 26 collectors produced £1161 (sufficient for 64 cure treatments).

The records of the past four years show a steady increase in the numbers of non-Toc H collectors (8-18-19-24). As one of our regular staunch supporters pointed out, 'You have reached the stage of the snowball effect'.

Despite the move of the LEPR office from central London to East Grinstead, we have contributed in excess of £1100 p.a. for three years now. Finding and organising voluntary collectors is a lot of work but it is worthwhile and it is possible to publicise Toc H in your own locality and help LEPR continue its good work. I think LEPR is not getting the assistance it deserves from Toc H. Members might therefore be interested in knowing the details of collecting for LEPR.

LEPR provides the police permit, numbered tins, stickers, wallets, optional plastic sashes and a printed schedule of tin numbers to enter the names of collectors on. All this material is collected by LEPR after the collection date and the contents of each tin counted and entered against the tin numbers and collector's name. LEPR send you a photo copy of the list and a receipt for the total collection.

You then send a simple circular letter to each of the collectors, thanking them for the total collection they have made and listing the tin numbers and the amount collected in each tin, but not identifying the collectors. There are blank spaces on the circular for you to fill in the number or numbers of the tin or tins used and the value in cash and its equivalent 'patients cured'. Thus confidentiality is ensured and everyone knows the total taking in money and 'number of patients cured of the vile disease' and how much the individual collector raised. People are very happy to help others and having done so, appreciate knowing the value in terms of patients cured - and they will return again next year.

Toc H has many 'small is beautiful' branches like Richmond and LEPR has a great need. A simple practical once-a-year job is inexpensive for Toc H members and will publicise both organisations and LEPR will benefit financially....

Why not have a go?

John B Young
Richmond Branch

Love Thy Enemy

I believe I am right in thinking that the Toc H Club at Verden is closed due to 'Options for Change' affecting the disposition of Forces in Germany.

The Club has always offered a warm welcome but perhaps never more so than when it came under the spell of Frank Dupont, to me one of the saintliest of members. Frank, who hailed from the Porstmouth area, started one of the first Toc H branches in Germany and combined the rare combination of business acumen with abounding compassion. However one incident about Frank stands out for me above all others.

One evening a young serviceman hid behind after the Club had closed and attempted to open the safe. Returning to the Club later that evening Frank disturbed the thief, who attacked him with an iron bar seriously fracturing his skull. The young assailant got away but was captured and sent to a military gaol. On recovering, Frank wrote to his attacker and through correspondence built up a friendship which, I believe, lasted until Frank died.

Perhaps this memory will serve to mark the passing of a Club of which Toc H can be rightly proud.

Keith Rea Axminster

Time and Friendship

In reply to Edward Pym's letter (*Point three*, August), certainly we should give time to people and offer friendship, but I am rather surprised that he should think we are the only organisation to recognise this. Often it is a need and urge within individual people. As a charity it is our duty and pleasure to help those who we feel are most worthy of financial aid, both near and abroad.

In our own branch we are all in our 70s and 80s. We do gain a few new members but they are our own age. We are not able to give as much practical help as we once did with gardening, work in the house, helping old people - except

with friendship! We are old ourselves, though young in spirit!

But financially we can help and are glad to have speakers to our meetings who tell us of their needs in the work of their own particular organisations. Reporting this to *Point three* is one way of showing that Toc H cares and works for those in need.

Nell Tracey

Llandrindod Wells

Toc H Projects are Marvellous!

I have just returned from a week at the Princess Marina Centre on my very first Toc H project. I'd like to tell you what a marvellous experience it was. I was very apprehensive about going on my first Toc H week at the advanced age of 56, but I need not have worried because the leaders, Bryan and Catrin, were very good and helped me such a lot with looking after the residents. They made it a very enjoyable week.

I really feel that it was a privilege to be allowed to help at the Centre. The residents were so interesting and such wonderful people, with so many difficulties. It was a tonic to me to see how they coped with them and made the most of their lives, especially their openness towards strangers and the way they welcomed us into their midst.

I think that one of the aspects which made such an impression on me was the variety of activities which we were able to do for the residents. We took them out on long visits, such as going to Brighton and London, but also shopping and going for walks in the local vicinity. It was fun to take them to the local pub and to see the younger residents enjoying themselves. We were able to write letters for them. Some residents were not able to speak but were able to communicate by pointing to words on boards.

I really felt it was very worthwhile, both for the residents and the volunteers. It has been one of the most stimulating worthwhile weeks of my life and I

would like to thank you very much for the opportunity of widening my horizons. Needless to say, I'd like to go on another project in the future.

Frances Milbourn
Sutton Coldfield

Sharing Prayer

A letter in a recent *Point three* inspired me to get our Fellowship of Prayer praying about the needs and problems of children and what Toc H could be doing to help. I am still doing the prayers for this and many general members are kept in touch with Toc H through participating in praying for it. Sadly, members in this country are mostly over 60 or 70 and keen as they may be, illness and difficulty in getting about restricts activities.

It is interesting that there is a growing interest around the country in churches meeting together informally in various ways to worship and work. The churches are all involved in the sort of things that Toc H does and often work together. We have been part of a growing Inner City Ministries Synod meeting in the Cathedral, starting with a meeting at which 'Ecumenical Clusters' will have four reps each, and ending with a one and a half hour fellowship service open to all. These clusters are defined as groups of clergy and lay men and women, youth and elderly, who meet informally to work together. We have monthly breakfasts and Canon Geoffrey Brown, vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, was interested in joining us for one when he spent July with us. The shared prayer with people of various races and traditions of worship all eagerly joining in, particularly struck him. The church here needs a supply of accredited people to act as peace-monitors for marches and rallies which might help prevent bloodshed, by standing between marchers and police.

Joy McIntyre Johannesburg

BRANCH NEWS

Pat Turner gives readers an update on the Kempston Charity Shop

The shop held its AGM in the spring and celebrated four years of successful trading. All the helpers, together with four members from the Wendover shop, joined me in a lavish celebratory meal.

Over the years a lot has been learned about how to market the goods at the right price, when to have a sale and how to keep the stock rotating. Most of our helpers have been with us since the shop opened and, among our newer recruits, two have become Branch members. I well remember one lady coming in to 'see if the shop smelt'. It didn't, and she became a very conscientious and hard working helper.

Once expenses have been paid, profits from the shop are shared equally between the Branch and Family Purse. Among other things, this has given us the funds for an annual outing for elderly people in the community and a party with entertainment. We run a Christmas party at a local Home, giving each resident a small present. Seven Baby Monitors have been presented to the local hospital. We raised £1000 for a blind person to have a Guide Dog and have purchased a replacement mini-bus with a tail lift for wheelchairs (see photo). Many other contributions are made when we see a need in the community.

We take a rail of clothes along to local fetes to advertise our stocks and publish details in the local



press when there is a sale. We even had a fashion show at a local fete a couple of years ago.

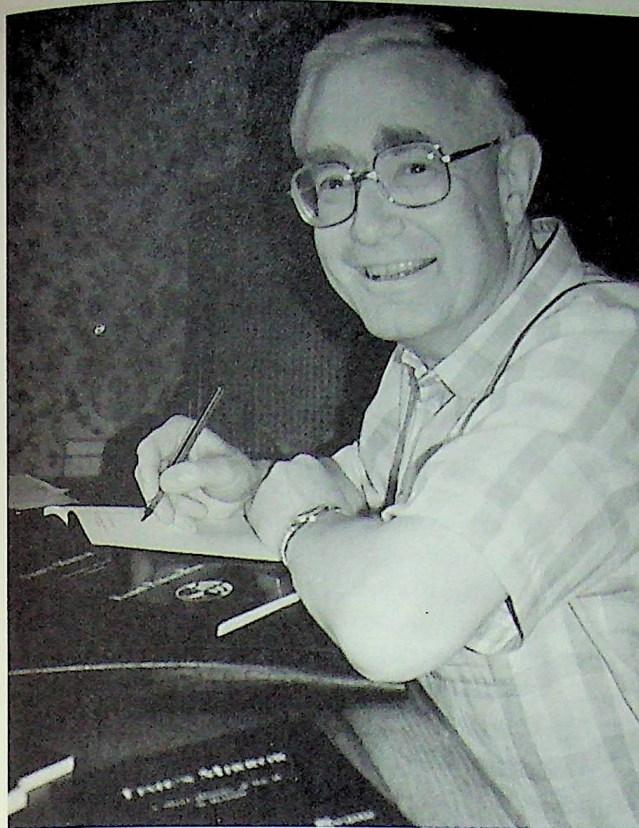
Many people come into the shop for a chat, knowing that they will be given encouragement or sympathy. The shop has made Toc H a well known name in the community and, with our mini-bus in use both by us and other organisations, the name of Toc H cannot be overlooked.

The shop could not function without the deep commitment of both members and friends who come on a set day week after week and often do extra shifts at short notice.

We sell a wide variety of things and once supplied a complete outfit for a wedding party - the bride, groom, bride's mother and bridesmaids. Many mothers have been able to dress their children up to school age and beyond!

Having the members from Wendover with us as at the AGM was lovely because it gave us the opportunity to exchange ideas and give one another support. We are now eagerly awaiting the opening of the Middlesbrough Shop!





Ken Prideaux-Brune autographs copies of his book, Time's Mirror - A Short History of Toc H. Available from Headquarters at £2 plus 50p p&p.

Tony Cock thanks all members who save stamps for the Toc H Stamp Appeal. As a result of the past year's work the sum of £137 has been raised for the Family Purse. Please keep saving stamps which can be passed to Tony via Headquarters, any Councillor or member of staff.



David Hall, National Secretary of Toc H Australia, and his wife Lois, visited Headquarters on a day in June when the sun shone! They are seen with John Biggerstaff and Mike Lyddiard.

Pat Murray, Secretary of Wallasey Branch, writes: 'Although small in numbers we have been helping the orphans in Romania for some time. Trips have been arranged by the Revd Fred Grossmith, son of our late member, Marjorie Grossmith. Through his church in Grimsby he has organised a team who have made three trips and are going again this month. The Branch have sent knitted and crocheted blankets, baby foods and tinned milk, toys and medical supplies. The Revd Grossmith donated a bed in memory of his mother and we also contributed one. They took 50 fold-up beds and mattresses altogether'.



Edward Pym (left), secretary of Hazel Grove Branch, receives a special tape recorder for the blind from Granville Jones, chairman of Talking Newspapers and Michael Grainger, president of the Rotary Club of Stockport. The tape recorder will be used by the Toc H Library Service at Stepping Hill Hospital. Photo reproduced by kind permission of The Stockport Messenger.



A Fine (Toc H) Romance! Congratulations to Alison Somers and Richard Newby on their recent engagement. Richard is treasurer of the North East Region and both are Central Councillors. Like many couples before them, they met through Toc H!

Cannock Chase Nature Trails - Phase II

The second phase of the Cannock Chase Nature Trails for the Disabled has now begun. This involves a trail, looping off from the first one and reaching deep into Brindley Valley to a large man-made pond with boardwalks, which has been sponsored by BT. The trail will then snake up the valley to the car park.



Photos show the keen volunteers beginning on the pond, with a CAT digging machine provided free of charge by Finings Ltd and representatives from BT. The editor and Chris Williams, Chairman of the West Midlands and South Wales Region, attended the symbolic occasion, together with Simon Walding, the landscape architect who has designed the 60 acre project.



Reception at Marquis Drive Visitors Centre



Over 100 people celebrated the start of Phase II of the Nature Trails Project at a reception on Saturday 21 August at the Cannock Chase Visitor's Centre. Guests included Councillor O'Leary, Chairman of Staffordshire County Council and a representative from BT, Petra Harper, who have sponsored the pool

area of Phase II. District Chairman Anne Turner, Joan Nicholas District Treasurer, Muriel Turner District Secretary and Betty Jones, a member of Penn Branch, helped serve the outstanding refreshments provided by the 11 branches of the South Staffs and Wulfrun District.

New Members

Welcome to 12 new members

Norman Hunt (Broughton Astley M)

David R Hughes,
Michael R Lyddiard (Central Branch)

Miss Irene G Dickens (Melton Mowbray W)

Carsten Huttermann,
Robin Williamson (Munster J Group)

Mrs Evelyn M Newman,
Mrs Gladys West (Parkhurst W)

Mrs Patricia Rowland (Seaford J)

Miss Janet A Armstrong (Shavington J)

Miss Y M Kershaw (Taunton J)

Miss Ellen Lower (Tunbridge Wells East J)

Deaths

We regret to announce the death of the following members

In June R John Scott-Miller (Solihull)

In July Pamela Brooke (Parkhurst)
Madeline M Edwards (Salcombe)
Marjorie Goodenough
(Springfields District)
Albert E Palmer (Graeme)

In August John C S Daly
(Right Revd Bishop of Korea)
Edith M Hockerday
(South Devon District)
Peter R Sharp (St Annes)
George T Huggan (Duns)
Clara Robinson (Kendal)
Moira C Simmonds (Southport)
Walter Trafford (Late Darlington)
Jane A Twidle
(Barrow-on-Humber)

Not previously recorded
Edward V Ash (Knowle)

Special Tributes

Ivy Swan, who died in April, was Warden of Talbot House, in the early 80s with her husband Charles. They set up The Swans Group, which later became the present Poperinge Branch. In addition to sharing their 'home' with countless visitors, Ivy and Charles forged a strong link with the army which brought many benefits to the house and garden. Voluntary wardens at Talbot House continue to give every visitor the same warmth of welcome, a fitting tribute to Ivy.

KR

Southport Branch report with deep sorrow the loss of **Moira Simmonds** who died peacefully at her home on 3 August. Up to 18 months ago she held the office of Jobmaster, which she carried out very faithfully. She had held various branch offices and was always ready to help out where needed. A true Christian, her husband supported her in all her activities. She will be sadly missed by her friends and fellow members in the Movement.

EP

Albert Palmer, who died in July, had been a lively and active member of Toc H in Derby since its formation in the 1920s. Before he married he lived at Mark XXI for several years. He was one of the prime movers in setting up the Toc H Disabled Fellowship and was at various times Chairman of the Fellowship, the Camp Committee and Graeme Branch. He was the embodiment of the Toc H spirit and while we miss him with sorrow, we remember him with joy.

GM

Members of South Devon District Branch sadly report the loss of **Edith Hockerday** at the age of 90. Although in failing health for some time she never lost her interest or sense of duty to the Movement and was always keen to hear the latest news and anxious to make her contribution to the Family Purse. She will be missed by us all.

BH

Working for a Caring Community Alison House -

Friday 22 - Sunday 24 October 1993

Leaders: Bill Bains and John Biggerstaff

This is a weekend of exploration of Jobmastery as understood and practised in Toc H. Any current Jobmasters, or others who are seeking more knowledge and/or experience, are welcome.

Interested? Want to know more? Write today to:

Bill Bains,
25 Whinmoor Gardens,
Leeds LS14 1AF

Colsterdale Open Day

9 October 1993
between 12 noon and 4 p.m.

Buffet lunch provided. Bring & Buy, Raffle.

THE PERFECT DAY OUT

Further details from:
The Colsterdale Centre,
Healey,
Masham, Ripon,
North Yorkshire HG4 4NN.
Tel: 0765 689382

Alison House - Garden Through The Seasons - Autumn

A gardening project, similar to the one described in *Point three*, August, is planned from Monday 18 to Friday 22 October.

If you wish to reserve a place please contact:

Bill Pepper, Alison House,
Intake Lane, Cromford, Matlock,
Derbyshire DE4 3RH
Tel: 0629 822316

Toc H Carol Service at All Hallows Church

Saturday 11 December
1993 at 2.30 pm

Further details from:

Connie Pring,
39 Princes Plain,
Bromley Common,
Kent BR2 8LH
Tel: 081 4628164 (after 7 pm).

1994 Diaries

Slimline design in green with a ribbon. Contains information about Toc H and regional, national and international Toc H addresses.

Available from
Headquarters and on sale
at Central Council.
Price £1 each (plus p&p)

Toc H Christmas Cards

Each pack contains five cards, same design, 3" x 5". Price £1.00 per pack. Please indicate required design, i.e. 1,2,3,4,5, or 6. Christmas cards are available at South Western Regional venues or Central Council. After November from Headquarters. (plus p&p)



Ref 1



Ref 2



Ref 3



Ref 4



Ref 5



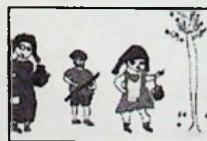
Ref 6

Christmas at Khasdobir

Notelets: No message inside. Ideal as gifts, they can be used all year round as greeting cards or opened out for letter writing. Pack of 5: £1.00

Christmas Cards: Designed by Dan Jones.
Message inside: *Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year.*

Pack of 10 (one design): £1.00 + 36p p&p



Please mark envelopes *Friends of Khasdobir* and make cheques payable to Toc H

Friends of Khasdobir
Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire. HP22 6BT. Tel: (0296) 623911

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 10p a word (minimum £1) plus VAT, to *Point three* Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Put Christ Back Into Christmas
with our Christmas cards and booklets:

Send for samples to: Norheimsund Books and Cards, 1 Whitney Road
Burton Latimer, Kettering, Northants NN15 5SL. Tel: 0536 723001